



TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN WRITERS

Fall Newsletter

September 2005

A Message from the President

The days are getting shorter, school is back in session, birds are beginning to contemplate the trip south: Summer is winding down, but the TMW schedule is gearing up! In this newsletter you'll read about a full slate of opportunities to see you through the fall, winter and spring. Our Fall Workshop (customized to a half-day this year so participants can have the best of both worlds: a writing workshop and a free October afternoon) will feature the use of historical research in your fiction or non-fiction writing. January Jumpstart VI will again offer both a poetry and a fiction track, and all of the key workshop leaders are now in place for our 18th annual conference in April: I know we always say this, but we think it will be the best ever! Check out the details below, mark your calendar, and make plans to join us for one, two or all three events.

In my first message as President, I would be seriously remiss if I didn't include a note of special thanks to Joy Margrave, who has done such a terrific job during her time at the helm of TMW. Talk about a tough act to follow! I fully understand Joy's need to step back for awhile, but we won't let her get too far back—she's still an active member of the TMW Board, and the person I lean on as I try to learn the ropes as President. The job is made easier not just by Joy but by our entire Board, every one of whom is back this year and working like the professionals they are. We also welcome Valeria Steele Roberson, playwright and assistant professor of public speaking at Roane State-Oak Ridge, as a new board member this year.

Most of you know our board members, but for those who may not, they are (in addition to Valeria, Joy and me) Robert Alfonso, Vicki Brumback, Shannon Collins, Steve Dekanich, Eddie Francisco, Connie Green, Wanda Grooms, Frank Jamison, Ruth Ann Maddux, Denise May, Margaret Pennycook, Sue Richardson Orr, Mona Raridon, Betty Roe, Mike Roe, Dorothy Senn, Wes Sims, and Ruth Smalley. I write each of these names with affection and pride, because they are such great folks and are so dedicated to the mission of Tennessee Mountain Writers.

And speaking of writing... In closing, I leave you with these words from Anne Lamott in her wonderful book on the subject, *Bird by Bird*: "I try to warn people who hope to get published that publication is not all that it is cracked up to be. But writing is. Writing has so much to give, so much to teach, so many surprises. That thing you had to force yourself to do—the actual art of writing—turns out to be the best part. It's like discovering that while you thought you needed the tea ceremony for the caffeine, what you really needed was the tea ceremony. The act of writing turns out to be its own reward."

Pick up a pen, or turn on the computer, and reward yourself today.

—Carol Grametbauer

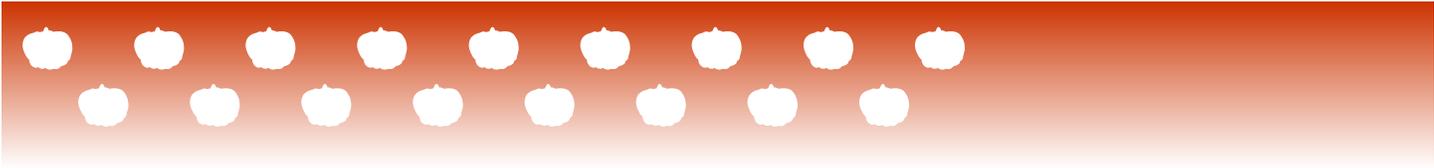


Important Dates

- 2005, September 24—Mid-South Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Annual Conference
- 2005, October 15—Union County Heritage Festival
- 2005, October 22—TMW Fall Workshop
- 2006, January 13-15—January Jumpstart VI
- 2006, April 7-8—TMW Annual Conference
- 2007, March 29-31—TMW Annual Conference

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Tennessee Mountain Writers Conference 2006

Sessions for next spring's conference will be held on April 7 & 8, 2006, at the DoubleTree in Oak Ridge, and the line up is almost complete with an array of fascinating speakers. Here they are, along with their website addresses.

Lynn York (Fiction) - <http://lynnnyork.com/>

Gaylord Brewer (Poetry) - <http://www.cherry-grove.com/brewer.html>

Cara Ellen Modisett (Nonfiction): - <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/6718/resume.html>

Roberta Dorr (Historical Research in Your Writing): - <http://oneweb.utc.edu/~tnwriter/authors/dorr.roberta.html>

Michael Shoulders (Writing for Young People): - <http://www.michaelshoulders.com/>

Judy DiGregorio (Incorporating Humor in Your Writing): - http://home.comcast.net/~digregorio5/Skills_Resume.html

In addition, **Dorothy Senn** and **Connie Green** will head a panel to discuss "Writing for Your Local Newspaper."

More Opportunities for Writers



The **Mid-South Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Annual Conference** will be held in Nashville on Saturday, Sept. 24. Information is available on the website www.scbwi-midsouth.com or contact Tracy Barrett at tracytbarrett@yahoo.com

The Author's Tent will be an excellent place for Festival attendees to meet these authors and discuss first hand the contents of their works.

Regional authors interested in participating in this event should contact Mary Anne Cabage at 865-497-2287 or jv-ma-cabage@att.net. There is no charge for authors to participate.

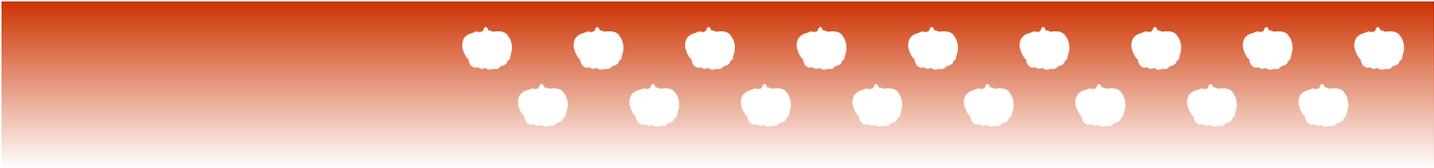
The Union County Heritage Festival on October 15th at the Roy Acuff Union Museum and Library in Maynardville will have an **Author's Tent**, showcasing the works of authors from the Appalachian area with an emphasis on Union County History.

For more information on all of the Heritage Festival events, go to www.unioncochamber.com/UCHeritageFestival2005.htm

The Union County Historical Society (UCHS) would like to invite all writers who have published books of historical significance pertaining to Union County families to be a member of the Author's Tent. Also invited and welcomed to display published works and to greet the general public are all regional writers, journalists, novelists, family historians and compilers.

2007 Conference

Though it may seem far in the future, the tireless TMW Planning Committee is already hard at work on the 2007 conference, March 29-31, 2007, and have already secured the services of nationally acclaimed poet **Nikki Giovanni** as banquet speaker. Congratulations to the committee on this tour de force.



Member News

Many of our members have been busy publishing, winning competitions and sharing their expertise. **Connie Green** was even a prize herself, which doesn't amaze any of us who know her. Connie will read some of her fine poetry at a dinner party for the highest bidder in a fundraiser for the Oak Ridge Playhouse.

Connie has published a haiku in *Haiku Headlines* every month this year and won second place in their Readers' Favorites April competition. She also received an honorable mention in poetry from the Appalachian Writers' Association. Somehow, Connie found time to teach a three-week, three-session course in *Beginning Poetry for the Knoxville Writers' Guild*, and speak at Walland Elementary School and at the Tennessee Tech International Reading Association annual conference.

Frank Jamison has been busy too. He has had nine poems published or accepted for publication in *Fox Cry Review*, *Karamu*, *Nimrod*, *Sanskrit*, *Quercus*, *Eclipse* and *Red Wheelbarrow*. Frank says, "To get those acceptances, I garnered about 90 rejections. So the batting average is about 10% and the pay is abominable. It just goes to show poets can't be in this for the money."

Nevertheless, **Wes Sims** is thrilled, thrilled, to have his poem accepted by *Eclipse Journal* in Glendale, CA.

And **Sue Richardson Orr** is pleased by her Second Place in the Cookeville Creative Writers' Poetry Contest with her poem, "From Then," and an Honorable Mention in the AWA Wilma Dykeman Award for Essay with her piece, "Washday."

Sue and **Connie** both appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel's series honoring James Agee.

Margaret Pennycook published two feature articles on Portland

stone and its role in rebuilding London after such disasters as the Great Fire of 1666 and the Blitz of World War II in the *Slippery Rock Gazette*. She is planning another article about stone based on her trip to Hawaii. (It's not all brilliant blue sea and orchids.)

Former TMWC presenter **Laura J. Underwood's** latest fantasy novel *CHRONICLES OF THE LAST WAR* was released by Yard Dog Press. Copies can be ordered through any local bookstore or directly from Yard Dog Press at <http://www.yarddogpress.com>.

If you have any news about your writing life you'd like to share in the next newsletter, please send it to Margaret Pennycook at mspenners@mac.com, with TMWC Newsletter in the subject line.



Editor's Note

New Orleans lies under water and mud, almost empty of people, except the dead, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The city has produced many fine writers. Truman Capote, Lillian Hellman, Elmore Leonard and Anne Rice were all born there and, no doubt, owe their unique voices to its rare atmosphere. Tennessee Williams and Kate Chopin were deeply influenced by its unique mix of residents.

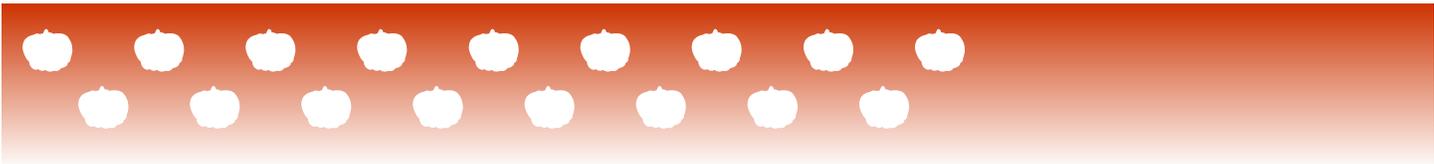
Perhaps there is something special in the state's soil and it is no

coincidence that former Louisiana resident, **Joyce McDonald**, is known by many of you because of her frequent trips to the winners' handshake at Tennessee Mountain Writers Conferences. Before Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf shoreline in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, Joyce decided to leave her home in northern Louisiana and joined the writing community here in East Tennessee. We are delighted and flattered to have her.

TMW hopes that her relatives and friends are safe, and that the same is true for all our members.

No doubt, there will be many stories told and written of the catastrophe. We can only hope the exceptional inspirational nature of New Orleans and its surroundings has not all been blown away or drowned and, given time, its ability to rouse writers to excellence will prevail.

—Margaret Pennycook



TMW Fall Workshop

"Weaving History into Your Writing"

Fred Brown,

Knoxville News Sentinel, Leader

Saturday, October 22, 2005

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

United Way Building

Oak Ridge, TN

Registration fee is \$30.00.

This project is funded in part under an agreement with the Tennessee Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Coffee, hot tea and soft drinks will be provided. Attendees will be limited to 30.

For additional information visit the TMW website www.TMWI.org or call 865-671-6046.

Come and learn from the master of "weaving history into his stories." Fred Brown is a Senior Writer and columnist at the Knoxville News Sentinel. He has been a journalist for 40 years and is a member of the Scripps Howard Hall of Fame. He has written for several newspapers and has published three books, *Discovering October Roads: Fall Colors and Geology in Rural East Tennessee*, *The Serpent Handlers: Three Families and Their Faith*, and his most recent work released this summer, *Marking Time*.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Send check made to TMWI and registration form to:
TMW/Fall Workshop 2005
P.O. Box 3155
Crossville, TN 38557

January Jumpstart VI

Genres: Poetry, Fiction

Poetry Leader: **Bill Brown**

Fiction Leader: **Steve Womack**

Fri. - Sun., January 13 - 15, 2006

Best Western

Sweetwater, TN

Registration fee: \$100.00 TMW/TWA members; \$110.00 nonmembers

TMW room rate at the Best Western is \$58.00. You will need to make your own room reservations by calling Best Western at 423-337-3541.

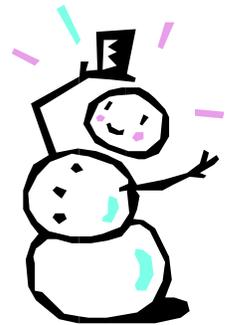
Jumpstart format will be the same in years past. The hospitality room will be open Friday and Saturday nights. Coffee, hot tea, and soft drinks will be available in the meeting rooms, with limited Danish service because of buffet in motel.

Send check made to TMWI and registration form to:

TMW January Jumpstart VI

P.O. Box 3155

Crossville, TN 38557



Start your writing year with January Jumpstart!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____